

[By Nancy Remsen](#)

It's a simple idea, but a tough challenge — trying to change attitudes in Washington D.C. and get Congress working again.

That's the premise behind a new group — the Problem Solvers — that Rep. Peter Welch has helped found. He was in New York City today to help announce the formation of this group, characterized as "a new bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers committed to breaking the gridlock in Congress."

Welch's office issued a news release with some details about the new group. It has 26 members. Its formation was announced by the co-chairmen of No Labels, former Gov. Jon Huntsman, R-Utah, and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va. No Labels is a national organization working to change Washington attitudes and make Congress work.

The new release continues. The Problem Solvers will work from within Congress to reform its operations and advance legislation on practical policy issues that cut across party lines to address some of the nation's pressing challenges. Welch is advocating that the group focus on energy efficiency, infrastructure investments, and mortgage relief for middle class homeowners. The group will hold regular meetings to build bipartisan relationships, recruit new members and develop legislation and Congressional reforms.

"Vermonters have a tradition of practical and civil problem solving rather than ideological warfare," Welch said. "We know that working together is the only way to achieve durable solutions because doing so gives people confidence that we will get things more right than wrong and that we'll be willing to make right what we do get wrong. We need that same attitude in Washington. We have to be willing to work across the aisle to make progress on the serious challenges facing our country."

"The Problem Solvers are about an attitude more than anything else. It's about searching for areas of common ground instead of searching for chances to score points against the other side," Huntsman said. "Congressman Welch has embraced this attitude wholeheartedly."

"We are truly looking forward to working with Congressman Welch as we take this small but important step toward breaking the gridlock in Washington," Manchin said. "If nothing else, the last few years of a broken Congress have shown us that we need a platform where we can put our political parties aside and come together for the good of our country."